

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Demographics*

Lancaster County is a Class 3 county of 984 square miles, with a total population estimated at 545,724 as of July 1, 2019, according to the US Census Bureau. It is located 80 miles from Baltimore and Philadelphia, and 160 miles from New York City. The City of Lancaster is the county seat, with a population of 59,265 (US Census Bureau population estimate as of July 1, 2019).

There are three County Commissioners who have limited legislative powers, and who serve as managers and administrators of county government. Assisting them are a number of officials elected for four-year terms, who fill the so-called row offices, and numerous appointed deputies and directors. Currently the number of county employees for Lancaster County Government is approximately 1,980 (1,700 full-time and 280 part-time).

The Lancaster County Prison is the county jail, and houses both male and female inmates, at maximum, medium, minimum and trustee security levels. The daily prison population averaged 1,100 in 2013, but more recently has averaged 680 inmates per day. Approximately 6000 people are admitted to LCP each year, with a roughly equal number of annual discharges. The median length of stay is 160-185 days (updated from 6/21 stats), with a per diem cost of \$121.40 per inmate per day. About 85 percent of the daily population of LCP is comprised of detainees awaiting court action. Around 15 percent of the LCP population are sentenced inmates. The current LCP inmate population breakdown by crime is as follows:

- 10% technical parole violations
- 28% summary charges
- 46% misdemeanors
- 2% PFA Order violations
- 46% felonies (NOTE: some people have multiple charges, resulting in a total >100%)

The Lancaster County court system has two levels: Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas and Magisterial District Courts. Fifteen judges serve the Court of Common Pleas and nineteen Magisterial District Judges serve the district courts. During 2019, the Court handled disposition of 5,581 cases, with 368 (6.6%) withdrawn/dismissed, 1,121 (20.1%) disposed by ARD, 3,666 (65.7%) disposed by guilty plea, 24 (0.4%) disposed by non-jury trial, 57 (1.0%) disposed by jury trial, 332 (5.9%) inactive and 13 (0.2%) other. As of the end of 2019, the court had an additional 2,813 cases pending. Of new cases filed during 2019, 42.4% were felony cases and 57.5% misdemeanors.

Lancaster County Adult Probation & Parole Services (APPS) is the enforcement arm of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County. Its mission is to effect prosocial behavior change in the individuals being supervised in order to aid in their rehabilitation, enhance their quality of life, and promote community safety. APPS supervises an average

of over 9,800 probationers/parolees per month. The racial breakdown of the supervised population is as follows: 80% White, 16% Black or African American, 4% Other/Not Identified. The breakdown of the supervised population by crime is 63% misdemeanor, 36% felony, 1% other. Approximately 40% of the total Lancaster County Prison population is driven by Adult Probation and Parole. These commitments include direct (violations based on commission of new criminal offense), technical (violation of one or more supervision rules & regulations), and a combination of direct & technical violations. In 2019, APPS processed a total of 2,334 probation/parole violations (note: not all of these resulted in incarceration) which reflects a 23% recidivism rate.

Lancaster County Adult Probation & Parole uses the following definition of recidivism: A new felony or misdemeanor charge sustained by a judicial officer. It will be measured for the three years from the start of the period of supervision, whether probation, county intermediate punishment (CIP) or parole. If a pots-parole probation tail is imposed, the three years should be measured from the date of release on parole (Note: 'sustained' does not require conviction, but simply bound over at the MDJ level).

The Court operates three specialty treatment courts: Drug Court (started in 2005), Mental Health Court (started in 2010), and Veterans Court (started in 2012).

The Lancaster County Adult Drug Court targets primarily offenders who are 'high risk/high needs' through its evaluation process and has two possible tracks: predisposition or post sentence/probation violation. The Drug Court team, led by the Drug Court Judge, includes an Assistant District Attorney, Public Defender, Drug Court Coordinator, drug and alcohol treatment provider, Drug and Alcohol Commission case manager, representatives from Lancaster County Prison and probation officers. After accepting its first client in February 2005, the Drug Court now includes, on average, 50 participants at any given time. The Drug Court participants must complete an intensive program that includes drug and alcohol treatment, supervision/probation appointments, frequent drug testing, judicial review hearings, community service, and other pro-social activities. The four-phase program requires a commitment of at least one year, but typically two, from the participant. In 2006, Drug Court celebrated the graduation of its first participant, and to date 213 participants have graduated from Lancaster County Drug Court.

Lancaster County Adult Mental Health Court is a specialty court program for criminal offenders diagnosed with a serious mental illness. Offenders can be referred to the program by police officers, Magisterial District Judges, attorneys, probation officers, case managers, prison staff, judges, family members, and other agencies or individuals who come into contact with an offender who might qualify for the program. The Mental Health Court team is led by the Mental Health Court Judge, and includes members from the District Attorney's and Public Defender's offices, drug and alcohol treatment provider, Drug and Alcohol Commission Case Manager, Mental Health Court Coordinator, Probation Officer, Mental Health Case Manager, Peer Support Specialist, a housing specialist, mental health clinician, representatives from Lancaster County Prison and a representative from Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS). To date, 79 participants have graduated from the Lancaster County Adult Mental Health Court.

The Lancaster County Veterans Court addresses the needs of veterans who have come in contact with the criminal justice system and are struggling with addiction, mental illness or co-occurring disorders as a result of their service. Veterans Court is open to any current or former member of any branch of the military, including the Reserves and National Guard. Referrals will be accepted after criminal charges have been filed and the case has been forwarded to the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas for further disposition. Any Felony or Misdemeanor charge will be considered, with the exception of homicide or Megan's Law charges. Referrals will also be accepted for criminal defendants who are before the Court of Common Pleas for alleged violations of existing probation/parole sentences, or as a condition of an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD). To date, 63 participants have graduated from the Lancaster County Veterans Court.

With regard to juvenile justice, the Office of Juvenile Probation supervises an average of 770 juveniles per month. The racial and ethnic breakdown of the supervised population is as follows: 38% White, 21% Black or African American, 36% Hispanic or Latino Origin, 1% Asian, 1% other. The breakdown of the supervised population by crime is 52% misdemeanor or other, 44% felony and 4% ungraded. Juvenile Probation tracks recidivism in two direction points at case closing. When a case is closed recidivism is tracked by looking back at the course of supervision to see if the juvenile recidivated while under supervision. Currently, the average is just under 10%. The State has undertaken a recidivism study to look beyond case closing and study an adjudication of delinquency or criminal conviction for a misdemeanor or a felony two years post release. The first year studied was 2007 and the rate was 28%. Recently, 2008 and 2009 figures were released with the following results; 2008 – 21% , 2009 – 18% and 2010-14%. Juvenile Probation utilizes a validated assessment tool to determine risk to reoffend and to identify needs that need to be targeted to reduce future risk to recidivate. Juvenile Probation is also incorporating many other evidence-based practices, models and interventions to reduce recidivism and to directly address criminogenic needs.

The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole also has a three-unit Lancaster sub-office, staffed by seventeen (17) PO's. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections releases an average of 677 inmates per year from state prisons back into Lancaster County (43-81 per month). Lancaster PBPP sub-office typically supervises 1,663 parolees per year who reside in Lancaster County. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections estimates a total of 863 inmates committed from Lancaster County will potentially be released from state prisons between October 2020 and December 2021.

There are sixty (60) municipalities in the County of Lancaster including 1 City, 18 Boroughs, and 41 Townships. A majority of municipalities provide police services delivery via their own police force or participation in a regional police force. Forty-three (43) municipalities are serviced by a total of 30 police departments. Coverage includes police services by Borough, City, Township, University, School District, Transportation and Regional policing entities.

This array of police agencies includes 12 Borough Police Departments, 10 Township Police Departments, 2 University Police Departments, 1 Transportation Police Department,

2 School District Police Departments and 3 Regional Police Departments, with 601 full-time officers employed to protect the citizens of Lancaster County. A total of 46 part-time officers are also employed throughout the county. In addition, there are 164 civilian unsworn support staff employed by these agencies in varied roles including data entry, administrative, school crossing, parking enforcement, or other designated support service roles. This figure includes 105 unsworn full-time support staff and an additional 59 part-time support staff members ¹.

In fiscal 2019 there were 328,888 calls for police services dispatched to Lancaster County Law Enforcement. A call analysis reflects an 7.04 % increase in the number of calls dispatched from County 911 to law enforcement from 2014 to 2019. Utilization of the 911 data provides work measures-metrics which are applied equally to all Lancaster County police departments. ²

The remaining seventeen (17) municipalities receive police coverage by the PA State Police, Troop J. These municipalities are located primarily in the sparsely populated south-eastern region of the county and make up approximately 46% of the square mileage total of Lancaster County.

The Lancaster County economy is driven largely by employers in the agriculture, manufacturing, wholesale trade, construction, health care, hospitality and retail industry sectors, with major employers including R. R. Donnelly and Sons, Turkey Hill Dairies, Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine, High Industries, Alcoa and others. The unemployment rate in the county as of December 2019 was 3.3% and the median household income in the county was \$63, 823, according to the US Census Bureau. In Lancaster City, the unemployment rate as of December 2019 was 4.8%, with a median household income of \$42,623. Lancaster County is a single-county Metropolitan Statistical Area and, as of July 2012, was ranked the 101st most populous MSA by the United States Census Bureau.

The County has sixteen school districts. The Lancaster County Career and Technology Center serves all school districts with a variety of vocational and technical training programs.

** Taken from the 2021 CJAB Strategic Plan*

Reentry Services History

In August 2005, under the name of the Lancaster County Reentry Management Organization (RMO), partnerships were created to help address the needs of reentrants. It is now called the Lancaster County Reentry Coalition (LCRC) and in 2017 the Community

¹ Figures presumed accurate by agency self-reporting - October 2020

² Source LCWC Annual Reporting - 2014-2019

Action Partnership became the fiscal agent for the LCRC. The LCRC is solid with well-established partnerships led by a 15-member Steering Committee and comprised of over 70 Partner organization & individuals. The Steering Committee members are leaders from Adult Probation and Parole, Lancaster County Commissioners, Lancaster County Prison, BHDS, LanCo MyHome, Tenfold (previously Tabor Community Services), Drug and Alcohol Commission, Elizabethtown Police/Second Chance Act, Commonwealth of PA (CareerLink), Compass Mark, Lancaster/Lebanon IU-13, Community Action Partnership and reentrants. Other Coalition partners include representatives from the Public Defender's office, District Attorney's office, Lancaster Bar Association, Bail Administration, State Parole, Juvenile Probation, Children and Youth, several Drug and Alcohol and mental health service providers, representatives from all 5 community hubs, public and private community-based service providers for employment, education, housing/shelter, family support, faith-based community, advocacy and other services as well as reentrants.

In March 2020 Community Action Partnership hired a Reentry Coordinator for the LCRC. The focus was on building the collaborative through connecting with partner agencies, organizations, communities and reentrants to hear the needs and gaps reentrants face along with opportunities available to them. Other roles of the coordinator include facilitating reentry connections at the state and local levels, supporting the coordination of resources and services needed for individuals who have been incarcerated and returning to the community, facilitating the coalition's strategic plan, coordinating the coalition meetings, researching best practices for reentry, ensuring trauma informed care is implemented into all phases of reentry as well as train criminal justice staff in SAMHSA's Trauma Informed Care material.

In December 2020 Community Action Partnership hired a Reentry Resource Liaison to support the gap reentrants face when they leave incarceration without the resources and support needed to succeed. The Reentry Resource Liaison supports the individuals as they transition and stabilizes back into their community anywhere within the 984 square miles of Lancaster County. Along with the relational support, the following services are also provided:

- Referrals to:
 - Shelter/short-term and long-term housing
 - Recovery housing, treatment, support
 - Mental Health treatment and support
 - Employment/Education/Training
 - Food and clothing resources
 - Medical/dental/vision referrals
 - Family support
- Help apply and obtain:
 - All Forms of ID's
 - Medical Assistance and Food stamps
 - VA benefits
 - Cell phone

- Basic needs:
 - Toiletries
 - Emergency clothing
 - Bus passes for appointments

The Reentry Resource Liaison receives referrals and works closely with Adult Probation and Parole, Bail Administration, Lancaster County Prison, Juvenile Probation, Public Defender's office, State Correctional Institutions and other county reentry coalitions with reentrants returning to Lancaster County.

The barriers and collateral consequences faced by individuals returning to our communities are many, the services and resources meant to support them in overcoming those barriers are often in silos, and no single agency can address every need of every returning citizen. The Coalition brings reentry partners and the communities they return to together to increase collaboration, reduce duplication, align existing efforts and strengthen stakeholders' capacity to improve their own work with Reentrants. The Coalition also creates a permanent space to ensure communication among participating organizations through administration, structural, and personnel changes.

**** From the Lancaster CJAB Strategic Plan 2020-2024***